

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 015015
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:JHHAWES

APPROVED BY:EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

S/S: SESTEINER

-----222028Z 013445 /44

R 221925Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015015

EXDIS - FOR ADMIRAL TURNER MILITARY PLEASE HANDLE AS SPECAT

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 7016 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 24 DEC 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 7016

EXDIS

FOR ASST SEC HARTMAN FROM AMB STRAUSS-HUPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, FR, BE

SUBJ: HARMEL'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND EUROPE

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 23 WITH PIERRE HARMEL, HE MADE SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS ON THE FRENCH/ EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCENE. I AM PASSING THESE ALONG BECAUSE I REGARD HARMEL AS ONE OF THE MOST ASTUTE ELDER STATESMEN IN EUROPE AND A KEEN OBSERVER OF THE FRENCH POLITICAL SCENE.

2. HARMEL TOLD ME FLATLY THAT GISCARD'S INITIATIVES TOWARDS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 015015

BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US AND EUROPEAN UNITY HAD FAILED AND THAT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT HIS POLICY CAN BE RESUMED. HARMEL REFERRED TO THE GROWING POLITICAL WEAKNESS OF GISCARD AND TO THE FLAGGING OF HIS ENERGIES, AS WELL AS TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE ELYSEE AND THE QUAI AND BETWEEN THE ELYSEE AND THE GAULISTS.

3. HARMEL FORESEES A POLITICAL TEMPEST ON THE HORIZON THAT BODES ILL FOR THE PRESENT POLITICAL ALIGNMENT IN FRANCE. HE SEES GISCARD SUFFERING A SERIOUS POLITICAL SETBACK THAT WILL LEAD TO A MAJOR REALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL FORCES. EMERGING FROM THE CHAOS, HE BELIEVES, WILL BE A NEW CENTER-LEFT COALITION OF RADICAL SOCIALISTS, SOCIALISTS, AND INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS THE HOPE NOT FOR TODAY BUT "FOR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW."

4. HARMEL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER SHOULD SEEK TO ESTABLISH CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING EUROPEAN POLITICAL FIGURES, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN EUROPE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: SCHMIDT, GISCARD, CALLAGHAN, KREISKY, AND BRANDT. (HARMEL OBSERVED THAT BRANDT, THOUGH NOT A BRILLIANT MAN, HAS A WIDER RANGE OF UNDERSTANDING THAN HAS SCHMIDT AND IS MORE POPULAR IN EUROPE AND GERMANY.) ACCORDING TO HARMEL, THE NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD SEE THESE MEN IN WASHINGTON, IN LEISURELY FASHION, AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT EUROPE WITHOUT PRESSING FOR IMMEDIATE, SPECIFIC ACTIONS. SUCH PRESSURE WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME. IN FRANCE, HARMEL ADDED, THE MOST VALID INTERLOCUTOR AT PRESENT IS BARRE, NOT GISCARD. BARRE IS SELFLESS AND STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND POSSIBLY THE STRONGEST MAN ON THE FRENCH TEAM.

5. FINALLY, HARMEL AGREED WITH ME ABOUT THE DEPLORABLE ATTITUDE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TOWARD DEFENSE. HARMEL DESCRIBED THE PROBLEM TO BASIC POLITICAL WEAKNESSES, AND NOTED THE GROWING GAP IN BELGIUM BETWEEN EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY. STRAUSS-HUPE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 015015

UNQTE: HABIB

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE015015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:JHHAWES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0665
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770127/aaaaaxal.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4bb9b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3527967
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARMEL'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, BE, XG, US, NATO, (HARMEL, PIERRE), (STRAUSZ-HUPE, ROBERT)
To: CINCSOUTH
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4bb9b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009